

Angie Lake

From: ~~dan.taylor@gmail.com on behalf of Dan Taylor, Sr. dan.taylor@gmail.com~~
Sent: Wednesday, February 22, 2012 9:53 AM
To: Brett Visner; Angie Lake
Subject: Letter to be submitted Thursday Feb. 23, 2012 for medical marijuana hearing

To all it may concern,

I am a 55 year old legal medical cannabis card holder and I am a law abiding citizen. In fact, I have had only one minor traffic ticket at the age of 21 years old, if one were to check my record.

After suffering for around 20 years, I have been using medical cannabis for fibromyalgia pain for about three years now, with positive results. I'm doing this with the support of both my psychiatrist and doctor. Notwithstanding their support, both doctors are unwilling to write a medical cannabis recommendation for me due to fear and stigmatization borne of overly aggressive enforcement tactics and public threats made by Attorney General Bill Schuette and other law enforcement officials, which jeopardize their medical practice. Thus, I must seek a doctor who specializes in writing cannabis recommendations, which makes it difficult for me, as I have to travel to Kalamazoo. Bills that would create an even higher bar for doctors to make recommendations, or that would make physician information available to law enforcement officials would only exacerbate this already difficult situation.

I started using cannabis for the first time in my life at the age of 52 years old. I now have three years of hands on experience with cannabis. I am disturbed by and disappointed with the misinformation and half-truths perpetuated by our government to us over the years about cannabis being a harmful evil drug, when it is far from the truth. To be sure, it is not for everyone and can be abused, but relative to prescription narcotics like Valium, Percoset, and Oxycontin, it is practically benign. Meanwhile, for patients like myself struggling to live free of debilitating pain, it has been a lifesaver. I am profoundly disappointed that our lawmakers are trying to make it even more difficult for me to obtain this medicine. Rather than pushing this back underground, the legislature should make it easier to obtain safe, lab-tested cannabis from a dispensary for my condition. I do not want to be forced to go to the street to look for my medicine, as it could possibly have pesticides or mold, which is harmful to my health. I am not able to grow cannabis because of my illness. I once had a caregiver, but that person stopped growing because of concerns with Federal law.

I can easily go to a pharmacy to get my prescribed pills, which can damage my liver and other internal organs and carry a host of other side effects, but dispensaries for cannabis are supposed to be wrong? My life is already extremely difficult, and it's enough to get through the day. Why am I

being discriminated against because of the medicine my doctors recommend? I am physically ill and need cannabis to help my condition; I am NOT a criminal!

Sincerely,

Daniel L. Taylor Sr.

Zeeland, MI

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*"If there's a rock-n-roll heaven, they're gonna have one hell of a band with me hanging about". - **George Harrison***